Caltrans

Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin

Volume 2/Issue No. 8 April 15, 1998

The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin is prepared by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to aid all projects and operations in maintaining compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

This bulletin will serve to update, inform and remind construction personnel about two common sources of storm water compliance violations: concrete waste washout and improper silt fence installation.

CONCRETE WASTE MANAGEMENT (CD16)

Non-storm water generated pollutants are generally more toxic to the environment than sediment and nutrients. While hardened concrete is relatively benign, liquid concrete waste carries hydration by-products to receiving waters. As such concrete washout waste is harmful to the environment and is considered a pollutant.

Concrete washout violation is one of the most reported compliance issues, regardless of the season. Disposal of concrete washout waste continues to be a concern—*including waste from pump priming operations.*

The most effective way to handle concrete washout is to designate a containment pit and enforce its use. Signage around the pit should be clearly visible to the drivers.

Concrete waste from pump priming

Concrete waste from pump priming operations must also be contained. This can be as simple as using a container such as a bucket or digging a pit to contain the waste.

Another concern is slurry containing portland cement concrete (PCC) or asphalt concrete (AC) generated from sawcutting, coring, grinding, and grooving. One method for preventing slurries from entering storm drains or receiving waters is to:

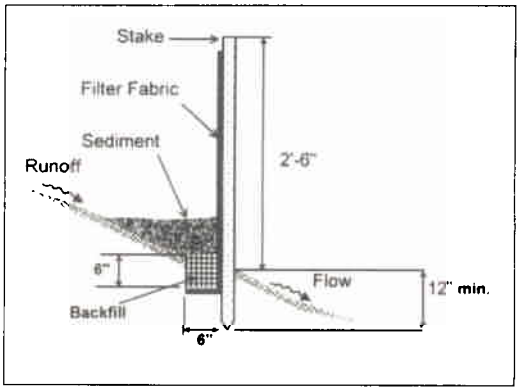
- Contain the slurry using berms (CD32B) or sandbags (CD38)
- Protect inlets using CD40 – Storm Drain Inlet Protection
- Shovel or vacuum slurry and place in a temporary pit for drying

SILT FENCE INSTALLATION (CD36)

A common storm water pollution problem is improper installation of silt fences. Key guidelines for silt fence installation include:

- Install along a contour line
- Drive stakes at least 12" deep into the ground
- Keep stake spacing to 8 feet or less (Some applications may need additional bracing)
- Key in the fabric properly (6 inches below ground and 6 inches across, towards the flow of water)
- Turn the last 6 feet of fence up slope to allow for ponding, if the silt fence doesn't pond the runoff, it is an ineffective BMP
- Limit fence length to 500 feet or less
- Limit slope length between successive fence lines to 100 feet or less
- Avoid placing silt fence in concentrated flow locations.

Refer to CD36— Silt Fences, in the *Handbook* for additional specifications and guidelines.



Proper installation of silt fence

Continuing Construction Concerns:

Concrete Waste Washout and Silt Fence Installation

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks. Questions or comments may be directed to:

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